CUP21 g.28/39

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSTABLES

FOR EXECUTING THE

POLICE SCHEME

IN THE COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.

THE Juſtices of the Peace of the County of Haddington being deſirous as much as poſſible to diſcourage Vagrants and idle Perſons going about the country, and happy to find that the moſt reſpectable tenants in every quarter of the County are alſo deſirous to give their aid and aſſiſtance for that laudable purpoſe, by chearfully offering themſelves to ſerve as Head conſtables in their ſeveral bounds: That they may therefore be at no loſs to know how to act in that office,

The following DIRECTIONS, taken from the Statutes upon that head, are publiſhed for their uſe:

EVERY Conſtable, in their reſpective pariſhes, ſhall apprehend any ſuſpicious Perſons, who are night-walkers, and cannot give a good account of themſelves, and carry them to the next Juſtice of Peace to find caution for their good behaviour, or otherwiſe be committed to priſon: And the ſaid Conſtable or Conſtables ſhall ſtay and arreſt all Vagabonds, Sturdy Beggars and Egyptians, and carry them before ſome Juſtice of Peace, who ſhall take order for their committing to priſon, or other puniſhments, according to the ſtatutes of Parliament.

Every Conſtable in their reſpective pariſhes ſhall arreſt all idle Perſons whom they know to have no means to live upon, and will not betake themſelves to any labour, trade or occupation, and ſhall carry them before ſome Juſtices of Peace, who, after examination, ſhall either commit them to priſon, or take ſurety of them for their appearance at the next Quarter-ſeſſions.

All Conſtables in their reſpective pariſhes ſhall apprehend every Perſon or Perſons that ſhall be guilty and culpable of ſlaughter, murder, theft, or any other culpable crime whatſoever, and ſhall require his neighbours to aſſiſt for ſafe conveying of ſuch Perſon or Perſons to the next Juſtice of Peace in ſuch like caſes: And if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall refuſe or delay to aſſiſt the ſaid Conſtable or Conſtables in executing his or their offices, ſuch Perſons, for refuſing or delaying, ſhall be impriſoned, or otherwiſe puniſhed by the ſaid Juſtices at their Seſſions.

Upon the appearance of any fray or ſtir betwixt parties, the Conſtable ſhall require the aſſiſtance of his neighbours for ſundering of the parties; and if there be any harm done to the Conſtable, or any of the aſſiſtants, by them who made the fray, they ſhall be puniſhed by the Juſtices at the next Seſſion.

When any Perſon or Perſons have made a fray, and then flee to an houſe, the Conſtable or Conſtables may follow to the houſe to open the doors, which, if he or ſhe ſhall refuſe, he ſhall take notice of the maſter or keeper of the houſe, and require witneſſes thereon; and albeit the delinquent ſhall flee further without the bounds of the Conſtable's charge, yet may the Conſtable follow and apprehend him in a freſh purſuit, and crave concurrence of the country for that effect.

The Conſtables in every pariſh ſhall execute all ſuch precepts and warrands as they ſhall from time to time receive from the Juſtices of the Peace; and every petty Conſtable ſhall receive a reaſonable reward for every time he is employed as aforeſaid, at the diſcretion of the Juſtices.

This is now fixed at one shilling for each person apprehended besides six pence for mile the Constable travels with them to prison and payment for necessary disbursements to the Justice who commits them to draw on the Collector of the Rogue money